Asset Management & Inspections
The Asset Management & Inspections Department meets this need through sampling, inspection, testing, and reliability analysis services that evaluate the condition of T&D assets such as wood poles, towers, crossarms, insulators, connectors, and anchor systems. Services include determination of asset remaining strength and life span, development of maintenance and risk-mitigation strategies, and evaluation of inspection methods and techniques for condition assessment.

Setting the department apart from competitors are its capabilities for multidisciplinary analyses. Supported by other in-house labs, investigators can go beyond sampling and inspection to conduct fitness-for-service analyses based on mechanical, materials, and electrical test results.

Powertech’s Asset Management & Inspections Department conducts routine nondestructive testing (NDT) inspections and dielectric testing of aerial devices and insulated tools such as bucket trucks, hot-sticks, and linemen safety equipment to ensure the equipment is safe for use. Specialized inspections can be performed for generation systems such as turbine runners, penstocks, gates, pressure vessels, fuel tanks, and piping.

Powertech also offers field and laboratory testing services to measure the thermal resistivity of native soils or backfill materials required for underground transmission lines and oil and gas pipelines.
CONTENTS

04 Capabilities
05 Services
06 On-site Inspection
07 Condition of T&D Assets
Asset Management & Inspections

CAPABILITIES

The staff of the Asset Management & Inspections Department have 30 years of industrial experience, with backgrounds in structural, civil, electrical, materials, and mechanical engineering.

Asset Management staff is experienced with commercial software such as SolidWorks Simulation, PLS-Pole, PLS-Tower, and other in-house developed software to conduct finite element analysis of structures, components, and overhead lines. Powertech’s Wood Pole Selection and Analysis Tool allows direct determination of a pole class to meet specified structural design requirements, and also serviceability analysis of an existing wood pole.

Powertech also has the in-house capability to conduct structural safety and reliability analysis to quantify probability of failure of a structure or a component for a given period of time while taking into account uncertainties in materials, loads, and other intervening conditions and parameters.

Asset Management staff has expertise in consulting and data analysis for equipment end-of-life decisions and life management strategies through life data analysis. Access is also available to the capabilities of other in-house Powertech labs for additional analyses from mechanical, materials, and electrical testing.

The department has conducted many research programs for CEATI and has capabilities for designing and managing investigative R&D projects.
Asset management services aim to determine end-of-life of assets and whether and how equipment life span can be extended.

Asset Management Services include:

- Structural testing and integrity assessment service—sampling, condition assessment, and reliability analysis of various aging T&D components.
- Condition-based serviceability and life extension of wood and steel pole structures—quantification of decay for wood structures and present condition of steel structures, assessing serviceability, and making life extension decisions.
- Finite-element analysis service—static and dynamic performance analysis of structures, components, and overhead lines.
- Asset management solutions for managing aging T&D assets—determination of asset remaining strength and life span, development of maintenance and risk-mitigation strategies, and evaluation of inspection methods and techniques for condition assessment.

NDT and Welding Inspection Services include:

- Visual inspection (videoscope)
- Magnetic particle inspection
- Dye penetrant inspection
- Ultrasonic inspection
- Eddy current inspection
- Acoustic emission inspection
- Radiography
- In-situ harness testing
- Welding inspection

NDT and welding inspection services determine whether equipment and components are in safe operating condition.
ON-SITE INSPECTION

Specific testing services include:

- Annual combined nondestructive testing and dielectric testing of aerial lifting vehicles
- Dielectric testing of insulated line tools
- Nondestructive testing inspection of turbine runners, pressure vessels, penstocks, lifting devices, cranes, gates/valves, steel poles, and piping
- Thermal resistivity of soils and rocks

These services determine whether equipment is fit for service. The inspections identify defects to be addressed by owners, or if no defects are found, result in safe-to-operate certifications. The timing and resolution of inspections are often critical to avoid prolonged and costly outages of equipment.

The findings help electric utility clients ensure the safe operation of their equipment and keep generation and T&D assets in healthy and reliable operation.

Powertech operates a fleet of testing vehicles to conduct on-site services throughout British Columbia for NDT and dielectric testing. Among the sites are electric power generation stations, substations, and regional offices and line rooms.
**CONDITION OF T&D ASSETS**

Powertech is coordinating an asset management program for overhead transmission components that utilizes a sampling protocol.

Unlike the costly assets in substations and power generation plants, where detailed and blanket condition assessments can be easily cost-justified, many T&D overhead components—such as insulators, cross-arms and through-bolts—are less expensive but massive in quantity and sparsely located. Thus, detailed on-site inspections would be labor-intensive, and inspections carried out from helicopters and from the ground have limitations.

To address these issues for BC Hydro, Powertech is utilizing a sampling protocol for asset management of overhead transmission components. As a cost-saving measure, Powertech works with utility field crews to take samples and collect asset data during routine utility line maintenance. This “sampling by opportunity” involves only an incremental additional cost and allows efficient data collection. Powertech uses the data compiled through sampling to determine correlations between condition, remaining strength, age, and geographic locations.

The program has also been extended to testing in-service transmission wood poles and cross-arms to determine remaining bending strength of the poles to evaluate whether the current replacement scope is adequate.

**SELECTED CLIENTS**
THE POWERTECH ADVANTAGE

Powertech Labs Inc. is one of the largest testing and research laboratories in North America, situated in beautiful British Columbia, Canada. Our 11-acre facility offers 15 different testing labs for a one-stop-shop approach to managing utility generation, transmission and distribution power systems.

Powertech is home to a broad range of scientists, engineers, and technical specialists, with capabilities in electrical testing, cable condition assessment, mechanical and materials engineering, software technologies, power system studies, chemical analysis, gas systems engineering, and smart utility services. These skilled researchers have decades of collective and real-world experience and often work in cross-departmental teams to investigate, diagnose and solve complex problems.

As an independent, third-party testing facility, we adhere to the highest laboratory (ISO 17025), quality (ISO 9001) and environmental (ISO 14001) management standards. Many of our scientists and engineers chair or participate in various standards committees within their fields of expertise. Additionally we have the capabilities to derive and develop non-standard testing methods and setups required to test product prototypes and perform forensic analysis.

Outside of the utilities industry, Powertech provides routine testing capabilities, product development, research and consulting services to support an array of industrial-type operations, electrical equipment manufacturers and automotive original equipment manufacturers.